



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release APRIL 5, 1949

F.W.S. SETS UP WILD FUR-ANIMAL
RESEARCH PROJECT FOR GULF STATES

A Federal wild fur-animal research project for the Gulf states has been established, with headquarters on the campus of the Southwestern Louisiana Institute, Lafayette, La., the Fish and Wildlife Service announced today. The project's goal: to increase the quality and value of wild pelts produced in the fur-rich southeastern states.

Dr. Herbert L. Dozier, a native of Wilmington, N. C., will conduct the research studies. He will seek improvements in the trapping, skinning, stretching, drying, and shipping of raw furs for market. He will also study the effects of water impoundments and other land developments on muskrat, raccoon, mink, opossum, otter, nutria, and skunk populations, seeking better methods of marsh management.

Dr. Dozier's research work will be centered in Louisiana, the country's leading fur-producing state, where an average 6 million pelts, worth almost \$10 million, have been produced annually during the past five years. The Sabine, Delta and Lacassine National Wildlife Refuges will serve as his "field laboratories."

Formerly stationed at the U. S. Fur-Animal Field Station, Cambridge, Md., Dr. Dozier is 53-years old, and has a B. S. degree from the University of South Carolina, an M. S. from the University of Florida, and a Ph.D. from the University of Clermont-Ferrand, France.

X X X